

Brief Review of Progress Report
Home Demonstration Work in Postwar Years

Some purposes of the meeting of National Committee of State Home
Demonstration Leaders were to:

1. Consider some of the problems in the rapidly expanding field of family and community life.
2. Consider possible needed changes in organization and policies of Extension work to better adapt it to the most important needs of today and tomorrow.
3. Draft recommendations and plan for further consideration by staff members in States and regions of these and other problems of concern to rural families.

Some assumptions by the Committee:

The home demonstration program will give emphasis to postwar problems in food, nutrition, clothing and home management. It is anticipated that increasing attention will be given to problems in the field of health and medical care, housing, farm and home financial planning, parent education and family life interests, leisure interests of family members, community welfare, consumer education, and citizenship responsibilities.

Some highlights of the discussions:

Organization

If Extension agents are to give families the kind of help they need and want in the years ahead, those administering the Extension Service will need to expand their concept of the content of a program in family living.

Rural families are asking for help in such fields as health and medical care, housing, farm and home financial planning, consumer education, parent education and family life. They are likewise becoming more keenly concerned about problems of community welfare such as schools, libraries, recreation facilities and services. They are realizing that these responsibilities extend beyond their local community. They are turning to Extension agents, both men and women, for leadership in developing programs in some of these less familiar areas.

Personnel

If Extension agents are to meet the demands of rural families for new emphasis in the educational program in family living, it will be necessary to give serious consideration to the matter of adequate

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personnel. Salaries should be comparable to other workers with similar training and experience. Specialists should be provided in new fields of subject matter and supervisory staff expanded as new agents are added.

Reaching new People

In 1944, home demonstration work influenced approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ million homes in the United States, including about 2 million farm homes. The general public needs to be better informed about home demonstration work. If there is to be improved public understanding and more widespread participation, the story of home demonstration work must be better told.

Rural Health

U. S. Public Health records show health situations to be worse in rural than in urban areas, a major factor being the shortage of doctors, dentists, and lack of clinics, hospitals and other health facilities in rural areas.

How shall Extension help rural families to work toward obtaining health facilities and services they need?

Housing

All surveys indicate great need for improved housing in rural areas. Farm people, aware of their needs, are planning to repair and remodel old homes or build new ones. To aid them, State Extension Services will initiate housing programs enlisting cooperation of other divisions of the Land Grant Colleges, as well as other agencies and organizations which have a contribution to make.

What Extension personnel can be utilized? What further personnel is needed.

What training should be provided?